

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required that the Applicants elect one of seven enumerated species. However, the Applicants submit that enumerated species 1 (corresponding to claims 3, 14, and 25) is generic with respect to enumerated species 2-7.

In particular, species 1 is directed to a list of devices authorized to access the storage unit, including: (1) the access condition including an identifier list including one or more identifiers which respectively identify one or more devices; and (2) the judging unit checks the one or more identifiers. It is noted that both of these two features (i.e., inventive concepts) of species 1 are essential elements of species 2-7, and species 2-7 simply further define the invention of “species 1”. Thus, it is submitted that species 1 should also be considered generic with respect to species 2-7. In order to make this point more clear, dependent claims 4-9 (corresponding to species 2-7, respectively) have now been amended so as to depend from claim 3 (corresponding to species 1); claims 15-20 (corresponding to species 2-7, respectively) have now been amendment to depend from claim 14 (corresponding to species 1); and claims 26-31 (corresponding to species 2-7, respectively) have been amended to depend from claim 25 (corresponding to species 1). Consequently, it is submitted that claims 3, 14, and 25 are all generic (in addition to claims 1-2, 10-13, 21-24, and 32-41 identified by the Examiner).

In view of the above comments and amendments, the Applicants hereby elect species 5, including a program list of programs the device may access, without traverse. Amended claims 7, 18, and 29 (in addition to all of the generic claims noted above) read on elected species 5.

In the event, however, that the Examiner does not accept the Applicants’ assertion that species 1 and claims 3, 14, and 25 are also *generic*, then the Applicant instead elects species 1, and asserts that claims 3, 14, and 25 (in addition to the generic claims identified by the Examiner) read on elected species 1.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the Applicants' election of species as noted above, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative. Otherwise, the Applicants look forward to receiving an Office Action on the merits of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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